DAIRY SUSTAINABILITY

PRESENTED BY Wisconsin Farm Bureau FEDERATION

WHY SUSTAINABILITY?

Resources such as feed, crops and manure must be managed responsibly to minimize environmental impact.

Dairy is an environmental solution. The dairy community is committed to becoming carbon neutral or better by 2050 by optimizing water use while maximizing recycling and improving water quality by optimizing utilization of manure and nutrients

KEY MESSAGES

- Producing a gallon of milk releases 19% **less** greenhouse gas missions than it did in 2007.
- Dairy cows are the ultimate recycler, turning crops like corn and hay that we cannot eat into delicious, nutritious dairy products.
- Dairy is a circular system. Manure from cows is used as a fertilizer to nourish the crops the cows eat.
- As efficiency increases, the carbon footprint per pound of milk decreases.
- 30% of a dairy cow's diet is made up of byproducts of human food production.

WATER USE ON A DAIRY FARM

- Water can be used up to four times on a dairy farm, first to cool the milk, then to water the cows, then to clean the parlor and finally to water crops.

FAST FACTS

- One gallon of milk requires 19 % less carbon, 30% less water and 21% less land than it did in 2007.
- The U.S. dairy industry has reduced its carbon footprint by 63% since 1945.
- The U.S. dairy cow produces 29% more milk than it did 20 years ago.
- Feeding byproducts to cows reduces GHG emissions more than composting and landfill disposal.
- Three million acres of Wisconsin cropland are managed with a nutrient management plan.
- One acre of corn has the ability to sequester eight tons of carbon from the atmosphere.
- Methane is a short-lived climate pollutant and exists in the atmosphere for 12 years before it's broken down.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Gather Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

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